

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 6, 2026

AGENDA NO. 8

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the December 2025 outreach activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office, which includes Major Events, Community Events/Public Meetings, Environmental Justice Update, Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, Public Information Center, Small Business Assistance, Media Relations, and Outreach to Community Groups and Governments.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

AL:DS:cb

Background

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for December 2025. The report includes Major Events, Community Events/Public Meetings, Environmental Justice (EJ) Update, Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, Public Information Center, Small Business Assistance, Media Relations, and Outreach to Community Groups and Governments.

Major Events (Hosted and Sponsored)

Each year, staff engage in hosting and sponsoring several major events throughout South Coast AQMD's four-county jurisdiction to promote, educate, and provide important information to the public regarding reducing air pollution, protecting public health, and improving air quality while minimizing economic impacts.

3rd Annual Eco Tianguis

On December 6, South Coast AQMD staff participated and provided a sponsorship for the 3rd Annual Eco Tianguis, hosted by the People's Collective for Environmental Justice, drawing approximately 200 attendees. South Coast AQMD hosted a booth to share air quality information, including how to file an air quality complaint, Check Before You Burn (CBYB), Replace Your Ride (RYR), the Residential EV Charging Incentive Program, the Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Rebate Program (Residential eL&G), and the Pilot Incentive Program for Zero-Emission Space and Water Heating Appliances (GO ZERO).

County of Riverside

On December 11, staff participated and provided a sponsorship to the County of Riverside's State of the County by hosting a resource booth, engaging with over 130 visitors. Attendees learned about programs such as RYR, GO ZERO, INVEST CLEAN, Commercial Electrical Lawn and Garden Equipment Program (Commercial eL&G), Small Business Assistance Program (SBA), and received information on the quarterly Advisor, how to file an air quality complaint, and the South Coast AQMD Mobile App (Mobile App).

Community Events/Public Meetings

Staff engaged with residents and stakeholders of diverse communities to provide information about the agency, incentive programs, and ways individuals can help reduce air pollution through events and meetings sponsored by South Coast AQMD or in partnership with others. Attendees typically receive information regarding the following:

- Tips on reducing their exposure to smog and its negative health effects;
- How to file an air quality complaint;
- Clean air technologies and their deployment;
- Invitations to or notices of conferences, seminars, workshops, and other public events;
- South Coast AQMD incentive programs;
- Funding/grant opportunities by South Coast AQMD and partner agencies;
- Ways to participate in South Coast AQMD's rules and policy development; and
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

Staff attended and/or provided information and updates at the following December events and meetings:

South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce

On December 2, staff participated in the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting and shared information on the GO ZERO program.

San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce

On December 4, staff participated in the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce Koffee Klatch and spoke on GO ZERO and INVEST CLEAN.

Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce

On December 4, staff participated in the Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting to share information about GO ZERO and INVEST CLEAN.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

On December 5, staff participated in the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation's Winter Holiday in the Park, sharing resources such as GO ZERO, how to file an air quality complaint, and the Mobile App.

Orange County Business Council

On December 9, staff participated in the Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee meeting and announced GO ZERO and INVEST CLEAN.

Big Bear Chamber of Commerce

On December 11, staff participated in the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting to provide information on CBYB, GO ZERO, and INVEST CLEAN.

Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

On December 11, staff participated in the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District Board meeting to share information on CBYB.

Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

On December 12, staff participated in the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting to share information on GO ZERO.

El Segundo

On December 12, staff participated in city of El Segundo Environmental Committee meeting to share information GO ZERO and INVEST CLEAN.

Senator Caroline Menjivar

On December 16, staff provided training and a presentation to Senator Caroline Menjivar's staff on the Mobile App and how to file an air quality complaint.

Vernon

On December 16, staff participated in the Vernon City Council public comment to share information on INVEST CLEAN.

GO ZERO Outreach

In December 2025, staff continued to conduct outreach on GO ZERO, a pilot program to assist with the purchase of zero-emission space and water heating appliances. Staff shared the program announcement with their contacts and provided information on GO ZERO at meetings and resource booths such as:

- Agoura Hills
- Banning
- Beaumont
- Beverly Hills
- Burbank
- Calabasas
- California Housing Foundation
- Calimesa
- Caltrans
- Canyon Lake
- Carson Chamber of Commerce
- Cathedral City
- Coachella
- Corona
- Culver City
- Desert Hot Springs
- Eastvale
- El Segundo
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce
- Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Glendale
- Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
- Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
- Hemet
- Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Hidden Hills
- Indian Wells
- Indio
- Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
- Jurupa Valley
- La Quinta
- Lake Elsinore
- Lomita Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles
- Malibu
- Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Menifee
- Moreno Valley
- Murrieta
- Norco
- Orange County Business Council
- Orange County Transportation Authority
- Palm Desert
- Palm Springs
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- Perris
- Rancho Mirage
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce
- San Bernardino Valley College
- San Fernando
- San Jacinto
- Santa Clarita
- Santa Monica
- SoCalGas
- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
- Temecula

- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
- West Hollywood
- Westlake Village
- Wildomar

Environmental Justice Update

The following are key EJ related activities in which staff participated during December. These events and meetings involve communities affected disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

Coachella Valley Unified School District

On December 3, staff visited Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) to provide information on the Clean Air Program for Elementary Students (CAPES), Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM) program, wildfire safety, the Mobile App, and how to file an air quality complaint.

Los Angeles County Office of Education

On December 9, staff attended the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Environmental Justice through Data workshop. This one-day workshop focused on environmental justice issues through data literacy.

South Jr. High School and Brookhurst Jr. High School

On December 10, staff visited South Jr. High School and Brookhurst Jr. High School to provide information on WHAM, wildfire safety, the Mobile App, and how to file an air quality complaint.

Pacoima Community Initiative

On December 12, staff attended Pacoima Community Initiative's monthly check-in meeting to provide information on CAPES and WHAM.

Active Learning

On December 16, staff met with Active Learning to share information about South Coast AQMD air quality education programs and discuss a potential partnership opportunity to promote CAPES and WHAM.

Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services

South Coast AQMD regularly receives requests for staff to speak on air quality-related issues from a wide variety of organizations, such as trade associations, chambers of commerce, community-based groups, schools, hospitals, and health-based organizations. South Coast AQMD also hosts visitors from around the world who meet with staff on a wide range of air quality issues.

There were no presentations in December.

Communication Center Statics

The Communication Center handles calls on South Coast AQMD's main line, 1-800-CUT-SMOG®, the Spanish line, and after-hours calls to those lines. Total calls received in the Month of December are summarized below:

Calls to South Coast AQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG®	2,185
Calls to South Coast AQMD's Spanish Line	25
Clean Air Connections	3
Total Calls	2,213

Public Information Center Statistics

The Public Information Center (PIC) handles phone calls and assists individuals who walk in for general information. Email advisories provide information on upcoming meetings and events, program announcements and alerts on time-sensitive issues. Information for the Month of December is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC	66
Calls to Automated System	140
Total Calls	206
Visitor Transactions	76
Email Advisories Sent	10,735

Small Business Assistance

South Coast AQMD notifies local businesses of proposed regulations so they can participate in the agency's rule development process. South Coast AQMD works with other agencies and governments to identify efficient, cost-effective ways to reduce air pollution and shares that information broadly. Staff provided personalized assistance to small businesses over the telephone, at South Coast AQMD headquarters and via virtual on-site consultation, as summarized below for December.

- Provided permit application assistance to 164 companies, and
- Processed 88 Air Quality Permit Checklists.

Types of businesses assisted:

Architecture Firms	Engineering Firms	Restaurants
Auto Body Shops	Manufacturing Facilities	Retail Facilities
Beauty Salons	Offices	Warehouses
Construction Firms	Recreational Facilities	

Media Relations

The Media Office handles all South Coast AQMD outreach and communications with television, radio, newspapers and all other publications, and media operations. The December report is listed below:

Major Media Interactions	256
Press Releases	30
News Carousel	11

Major Media Topics:

- **Vernon/Sterigenics:** LA Reported requested an interview to discuss Sterigenics and other environmental issues in Vernon. Working on scheduling an interview or a written response.
- **Air Pollution:** Community Roots Academy teacher requested an interview to discuss air pollution. We requested additional information. Pending teacher's response.
- **Dust Monitoring:** KESQ requested an interview in response to the Coachella Valley Dust Monitoring Cameras press release to discuss how the cameras operate. Additional information was requested from reporter. Deadline postponed to after Jan 4. Revisiting interview request and checking staff availability after the holidays.
- **Odor Complaints/World Oil:** LA Public Press had questions on the process of public odor complaints and violations regarding World Oil. Reporter had follow-up questions. Responses were provided.
- **Procedure 5 Plan:** San Francisco Chronicle requested clarification on the Procedure 5 plan for remediation efforts on asbestos contamination. Reporter had follow-up questions. Responses were provided.
- **Coating of metal parts and products (PAR1107):** Chemical Watch inquired about the Governing Boards's decision regarding amendments to PR1107 on December 5. Response was provided.
- **Ports Cooperative Agreement:** Reuters inquired about the status of the agreement and the Public Benefits Steering Committee Community Meeting on December 15. Response was provided.
- **Check Before You Burn (CBYB):** Newsweek inquired whether the current No-Burn advisory will be extended and the cause for issuing the advisory. Jurupa Valley Resident inquired about public outreach for the CBYB program and shared concerns about poor air quality in their area. Response was provided.
- **Torrance Refinery:** Gonzaga University student requested information for her college project regarding the refinery. We requested additional information from the student. Pending response.

- **Facility Complaints:** Capitol Weekly requested information regarding complaints and violations over a five-year period of multiple facilities. Working on a response.
- **Chevron Refinery:** LA Times was looking for an update on the Chevron root cause analysis report following the recent fire at the refinery. Response was provided.
- **Coachella Valley Dust Cameras Press Release:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.
- **Coachella Valley Street Sweeping Press Release:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.
- **No Burn Alert and Extensions:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.

News Releases:

- Press Release: South Coast AQMD Expands Dust-Monitoring Capabilities in the Coachella Valley. To view, click [here](#).
- Press Release: South Coast AQMD Approves \$220K to Extend Coachella Valley Street Sweeping Program. To view, click [here](#).
- Air Quality Advisories: No-Burn Day Alert issued and extended. To view, click the following: [12/5](#), [12/6](#), [12/8](#), [12/12](#), [12/13](#), [12/14](#), [12/15](#), [12/16](#), [12/17](#), [12/18](#), [12/19](#), [12/20](#) & [12/21](#).

Social Media Posts:

Ports Meeting (12/4): 597 Twitter Impressions
--RT by @CodeRed001Blue

AQI Forecast Map 12/13: 453 Twitter Impressions

News Carousel:

- **Learn about heat pumps and electrification! Join the GO ZERO Incentive Program for a free webinar on Dec. 4-5 (12/2)** – Linked to GO ZERO training webpage.
- **Join CARB’s virtual Clean Fleet Connect workgroup on Dec. 9 to learn about a new voluntary tool recognizing zero-emission truck and bus fleets (12/3)** – Linked to meeting invitation.
- **Join our hybrid workshop on Dec. 10 to learn about South Coast AQMD rules, best practices, and permitting for autobody shops (12/4)** – Linked to workshop webpage.

- **Reminder! Applications for the INVEST CLEAN Battery-Electric Switcher Locomotives funding are due Dec. 16 (12/9)** – Linked to INVEST CLEAN webpage.
- **Stay informed! Join the first virtual INVEST CLEAN Public Benefits Steering Committee Meeting on Dec. 15 to hear updates and provide input (12/11)** – Linked to committee meeting agenda.
- **Apply for CARB’s \$125 million in funding through the Clean Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project. First-come, first-served (12/16)** – Linked to the Clean Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) webpage.
- **Small businesses! GO ZERO incentive program has broadened eligibility so more companies and nonprofits can access clean air funding (12/17)** – Linked to the GO ZERO small business incentive program webpage.
- **New applications for the Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Incentive & Exchange Program are paused until Feb. 4, 2026, for scheduled maintenance and updates (12/23)** – Linked to Electric Lawn & Garden webpage.
- **Reminder! Rebates available for battery-electric Class 4–5 commercial vehicles through INVEST CLEAN’s Last Mile Freight Program (12/26)** – Linked to INVEST CLEAN webpage.
- **UPDATE: INVEST CLEAN funding to support zero-emission charging infrastructure has reopened, with a submission deadline of January 30, 2026 (12/26)** – Linked to INVEST CLEAN webpage.
- **Small businesses! GO ZERO incentive program has broadened eligibility so more companies and nonprofits can access clean air funding (12/30)** – Linked to GO ZERO Small Business webpage.

Outreach to Community Groups and Federal, State and Local Governments

Communication was conducted in December with elected officials and/or staff from the following state and federal offices:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • U.S. Senator Alex Padilla | • U.S. Representative Jimmy Gomez |
| • U.S. Senator Adam Schiff | • U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove |
| • U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar | • U.S. Representative Young Kim |
| • U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán | • U.S. Representative Ted Lieu |
| • U.S. Representative Julia Brownley | • U.S. Representative Dave Min |
| • U.S. Representative Ken Calvert | • U.S. Representative Jay Obernolte |
| • U.S. Representative Judy Chu | • U.S. Representative Linda Sánchez |
| • U.S. Representative Gilbert R. Cisneros | • U.S. Representative Brad Sherman |
| • U.S. Representative Lou Correa | • U.S. Representative Mark Takano |
| • U.S. Representative Laura Friedman | • U.S. Representative Norma Torres |
| • U.S. Representative Robert Garcia | |

- U.S. Representative Derek Tran
- U.S. Representative Luz Rivas
- U.S. Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz
- U.S. Representative Maxine Waters
- U.S. Representative George Whitesides
- Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire
- Senator Ben Allen
- Senator Bob Archuleta
- Senator Catherine Blakespear
- Senator Sabrina Cervantes
- Senator Steven Choi
- Senator María Elena Durazo
- Senator Lena Gonzalez
- Senator Shannon Grove
- Senator Caroline Menjivar
- Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
- Senator Steve Padilla
- Sasha Renée Pérez
- Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes
- Senator Laura Richardson
- Senator Susan Rubio
- Senator Kelly Seyarto
- Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
- Senator Henry Stern
- Senator Tom Umberg
- Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
- Assemblymember Steve Bennett
- Assemblymember Mia Bonta
- Assemblymember Isaac G. Bryan
- Assemblymember Lisa Calderon
- Assemblymember Jessica M. Caloza
- Assemblymember Juan Carrillo
- Assemblymember Leticia Castillo
- Assemblymember Phillip Chen
- Assemblymember Laurie Davies
- Assemblymember Diane B. Dixon
- Assemblymember Sade Elhawary
- Assemblymember Stan Ellis
- Assemblymember Mike Fong
- Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
- Assemblymember Robert Garcia
- Assemblymember Mike Gipson
- Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez
- Assemblymember Mark González
- Assemblymember John Harabedian
- Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
- Assemblymember Dr. Cory A. Jackson
- Assemblymember Ash Kalra
- Assemblymember Tom Lackey
- Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal
- Assemblymember Tina McKinnor
- Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
- Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco
- Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
- Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris
- Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Assemblymember James C. Ramos
- Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez
- Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez
- Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio
- Assemblymember Kate Sanchez
- Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo
- Assemblymember Nick Schultz
- Assemblymember José Luis Solache
- Assemblymember Tri Ta
- Assemblymember Avelino Valencia
- Assemblymember Greg Wallis
- Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur

Outreach was conducted personally and virtually in December to communicate with elected officials or staff from the following cities:

Agoura Hills	Dana Point	Laguna Niguel
Alhambra	Desert Hot Springs	Laguna Woods
Aliso Viejo	Diamond Bar	Lake Elsinore
Anaheim	Downey	Lake Forest
Arcadia	Duarte	Lakewood
Artesia	Eastvale	Lawndale
Avalon	El Monte	Loma Linda
Azusa	El Segundo	Lomita
Baldwin Park	Fontana	Long Beach
Banning	Fountain Valley	Los Alamitos
Beaumont	Fullerton	Los Angeles
Bell	Garden Grove	Lynwood
Bell Gardens	Gardena	Malibu
Bellflower	Glendale	Manhattan Beach
Beverly Hills	Glendora	Maywood
Big Bear Lake	Grand Terrace	Menifee
Bradbury	Hawaiian Gardens	Mission Viejo
Brea	Hawthorne	Monrovia
Buena Park	Hemet	Montclair
Burbank	Hermosa Beach	Montebello
Calabasas	Hidden Hills	Monterey Park
Calimesa	Highland	Moreno Valley
Canyon Lake	Huntington Beach	Murrieta
Carson	Huntington Park	Newport Beach
Cathedral City	Indian Wells	Norco
Cerritos	Indio	Norwalk
Chino	Inglewood	Ontario
Chino Hills	Irvine	Orange
City of Industry	Irwindale	Palm Desert
Claremont	Jurupa Valley	Palm Springs
Coachella	La Cañada Flintridge	Palos Verdes Estates
Colton	La Habra	Paramount
Commerce	La Habra Heights	Pasadena
Compton	La Mirada	Perris
Corona	La Palma	Pico Rivera
Costa Mesa	La Puente	Placentia
Covina	La Quinta	Pomona
Cudahy	La Verne	Rancho Cucamonga
Culver City	Laguna Beach	Rancho Mirage
Cypress	Laguna Hills	Rancho Palos Verdes

Rancho Santa Margarita	San Marino	Tustin
Redlands	Santa Ana	Upland
Redondo Beach	Santa Clarita	Vernon
Rialto	Santa Fe Springs	Villa Park
Riverside	Santa Monica	Walnut
Rolling Hills	Seal Beach	West Covina
Rolling Hills Estates	Sierra Madre	West Hollywood
Rosemead	Signal Hill	Westlake Village
San Bernardino	South El Monte	Westminster
San Clemente	South Gate	Whittier
San Dimas	South Pasadena	Wildomar
San Fernando	Stanton	Yobra Linda
San Gabriel	Temecula	Yucaipa
San Jacinto	Temple City	
San Juan Capistrano	Torrance	

Staff represented South Coast AQMD in December and/or provided updates or a presentation to the following governmental agencies and business organizations:

Bear Valley Electric Service Inc.
 Big Bear Chamber of Commerce
 Burbank Chamber of Commerce
 California Department of Transportation
 CALSTART
 CARB
 Carson Chamber of Commerce
 Chino Airport
 Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Coachella Valley Association of Governments
 Colton Chamber of Commerce
 Colton Economic Development Agency
 Complete Coach Works
 Crestline Chamber of Commerce
 Cucamonga Valley Water District
 El Segundo Chamber of Commerce
 First Southern Baptist Church, Palm Springs
 Fontana Chamber of Commerce
 Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Gateway Cities Council of Governments
 Glendale Chamber of Commerce
 Grand Terrace Area Chamber of Commerce

Greater Ontario Business Council
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce
Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce
Highland Area Chamber of Commerce
Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
Inland Valley Development Agency
Lake Arrowhead Communities Chamber of Commerce
Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce
Lomita Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
Montclair Chamber of Commerce
Mountain Transit
Omnitrans
Ontario International Airport Authority
Orange County Business Council
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Transportation Authority
Palm Springs International Airport
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Port of Long Beach
Port of Los Angeles
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce
Redlands Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Rialto Chamber of Commerce
Running Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce
San Bernardino County
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
San Bernardino International Airport Authority
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Southern California Association of Governments
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Terawatt

Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
United States Department of Agriculture
United States Forest Service
Upland Chamber of Commerce
WattEV
Western Riverside Council of Governments
Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce

In December, staff represented South Coast AQMD and/or provided updates or a presentation to the following community and educational groups and organizations:

Active Learning
Billie Jean King Main Library, Long Beach
Californians for Electric Rail
California Housing Foundation
California State University, San Bernardino
Center for Spiritual Living, Palm Springs
Inland Empire Utilities Association
Kaiser Permanente
Leadership Long Beach
Los Angeles Unified School District
Mountain Realtors Association
Palm Springs Church of Christ
San Bernardino Valley College
San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity
St. Lucy's Catholic Church
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Riverside
Upland Unified School District
Wilmington Senior Center